

Executive Order 2007- 17
Restoring Arizona's Forests
(Superseding Executive Order 2003-16)

WHEREAS, more than 15,500 wildfires have burned nearly 2,000,000 acres in Arizona since 2002, destroying hundreds of homes and some businesses and causing significant damage to our forests, range lands, community watersheds, wildlife and fish habitats, and other valuable natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, large unnaturally severe fires are symptomatic of poor forest health that has been and will likely continue to be, exacerbated by prolonged drought and global climate change; and

WHEREAS, 160 Arizona communities have been identified as “at risk” to wildfire; and

WHEREAS, more than 2,250,000 acres of urban interface lands are highly susceptible to fire losses due to hazardous fuel; and

WHEREAS, rapid expansion of the wildland/urban interface caused by explosive population growth can undermine land management in the wildland urban interface and lead to difficulties in providing adequate fire protection; and

WHEREAS, the March 2003 Governor's Conference on Forest Health and Safety led to development of an *Action Plan for Arizona*, the creation of a broad, science-based Arizona Forest Health Advisory Council to improve the health of Arizona's forests, and the establishment of a Governor's Forest Health Oversight Council to implement the plan and coordinate efforts between government agencies and all levels of government for fire prevention, suppression and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Arizona Forest Health Advisory Council and the Arizona Forest Health Oversight Council have successfully completed their assigned tasks, and developed a 20-Year Statewide Strategy for restoring Arizona's forests and protecting rural communities and their economies; and

WHEREAS, there is still much work to be done to address Arizona's forest health issues, restore our forests to healthy condition, and prevent other forest fire disasters;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, by the virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Arizona, do hereby disband the Forest Healthy Advisory Council and Forest Health Oversight Council and create a unified Arizona Forest Health Council (the “Forest Council”). I further hereby order as follows:

1. The Governor shall appoint members of the Forest Council who shall serve without compensation at the pleasure of the Governor;
2. The Forest Council shall have at least 15 members and no more than 30 members;
3. All Forest Council members shall have expertise in forest management science or policy

and, to the extent practicable, the Forest Council shall include representatives from each of the following:

- A county supervisor from a county with a significant forested community;
 - A mayor from a forested community;
 - Representatives of the Native American community;
 - Representatives of conservation organizations with interest in protecting forests;
 - Representatives from Arizona's business and ranching communities, including:
 - One or more representatives of forest-based industry;
 - A representative with rangeland management expertise;
 - A representative from an organization with interest in rural economic development;
 - A representative from a utility responsible for management of a forested transmission corridor;
 - A representative from a citizen-based organization focused on Community Wildfire Protection Plan implementation;
 - A representative from a municipal fire department;
 - A representative from a rural fire district;
 - A representative from a federal land management agency with interest in forest management;
 - Three representatives of universities in Arizona;
 - A representative of the insurance industry;
 - A representative of the real estate industry;
 - A representative from the Arizona Game and Fish Department
 - A representative from the Arizona Department of Commerce;
 - A representative from the Office of the State Forester;
 - A representative from the Governor's Office;
 - One ex officio member from the Natural Resource Committee of the Arizona Senate;
 - One ex officio member from the Natural Resource Committee of the Arizona House of Representatives;
 - One ex officio member of the Arizona House representing a rural forested district;
 - One ex officio member of the Arizona Senate representing a rural forested district.
4. Members of the Council may, with the Governor's permission, send designees to serve on the Council; provided, however, that such designees shall have been delegated by the member with full authority to vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member.
5. The Forest Council shall:

- Develop, oversee, and facilitate implementation of the Statewide Strategy for restoring Arizona's forests and protecting rural communities and their economies. These tasks include:
 - Identification of priority implementation actions and creation of a timeline for accomplishment;
 - Development of a scorecard to measure progress on the actions identified in the strategy; and
 - Development of scorecard to measure progress on implementation of 20-year Strategy by 12/31/07.
- Advise the Governor on matters of forest restoration, community protection, and fire management.
- Perform such other tasks as the Governor may suggest.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Arizona.


GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 25 day of July in the Year Two Thousand Seven and of the independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-Second.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

